



Preface

This is a collection of essays written originally for distribution at the workshop on *Algebraic Process Calculi: The First Twenty Five Years and Beyond*, which took place in the beautiful setting of the University Residential Centre of Bertinoro during August 1–5, 2005.

The event organisers aimed to celebrate the first twenty five years of research in the field of algebraic process calculi by reflecting on its achievements. We also aimed to sow some seeds for future development by highlighting the most important open problems and future directions in the field, and to stimulate international cooperation. The event was in part driven by the idea of a “CONCUR re-union” endorsed by Jos Baeten, Jan Bergstra, Tony Hoare, Robin Milner, and Jan Willem Klop. (Tony Hoare discusses the aims and impact of the CONCUR project in his contribution *Why Ever CSP?*) The members of the organising committee were: Luca Aceto (BRICS, Aalborg University, and Reykjavík University); Mario Bravetti (University of Bologna); Jim Davies (Oxford University); Wan Fokkink (Free University Amsterdam); Andrew D. Gordon (Microsoft Research); Joost-Pieter Katoen (RWTH Aachen University); Faron Moller (University of Wales Swansea); and Steve Schneider (University of Surrey). Aceto and Gordon edited this collection on behalf of the committee.

The meeting received generous sponsorship from the Bertinoro International Center for Informatics (BICI), the Basic Research in Computer Science (BRICS) Centre of the Danish National Research Foundation, and Microsoft Research. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Europe (ROSTE) offered partial financial support for the participation of young researchers. Moreover, we thank Elena Della Godenza, administrator of the University Residential Centre of Bertinoro, for her tireless organizational and secretarial assistance at all times.

The idea for this collection was to provide a slim volume to read and discuss during our summer days in Bertinoro. The committee decided from the very start that it should *not* be a collection of full technical articles. After all, there are already plenty of standard outlets for such work. Rather, we decided to solicit from the participants at the workshop, and other selected members of our community, short essays on the theme of algebraic process calculi. Some ideas for papers that we proposed to potential contributors were: a reminiscence about the early days; a

prospectus for future research; a statement of challenges or open problems; a history of a thread of research; a critical assessment of an idea or a project; a review of a seminal paper and its impact; or even a self-contained technical observation.

The slim volume of essays distributed at Bertinoro is BRICS Note NS-05-3. As we did not seek scientific articles in the usual sense, the contributions were unrefereed. We thank Uffe Engberg for his invaluable assistance with the production of the BRICS report.

This issue of *Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science* contains revised, though again unrefereed, versions of the essays in the original BRICS report. It also contains the full text of Martin Berger's interview with Robin Milner, abridged in the original volume.

Our efforts in organizing the workshop, and in compiling this collection, will be amply rewarded if young researchers are enticed to work in process theory by reading these essays, by the solution of some of the open problems that are raised, or by new work in some of the directions highlighted.

A further record is at <http://www.cs.aau.dk/~luca/BICI/PA-05/>.

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